

CALIFORNIA REENTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Tuesday July 24, 2007
9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: University of California, Davis
Buehler Alumni and Visitor's Center
AGR Hall
Davis, California 95616

Members of the Reentry Advisory Committee in attendance:

Chair James E. Tilton, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
David Allan, League of California Cities
Vaughn Jeffery, California State Association of Counties
Gary R. Stanton, California State Sheriff's Association
Richard Word, California Police Chiefs Association
Patrick Ogawa, County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California
Albert Senella, California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives
Sharon Jackson, CDCR, Adult Parole Operations
Stephen Mayberg, Department of Mental Health
Jo Frederick, Department of Social Services
Jeff Wyly, Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Vivian Auble, Department of Health Services
Debbie McDermott, California Catholic Conference
Brian Buchner, Corporation for Supportive Housing
Shirley Melnicoe, Northern California Service League

Meeting Facilitator:
Michael Lawler, Center for Public Policy Research, UC Davis

Also Present:

Marisela Montes, CDCR Adult Programs
Armand Burrue, CDCR, Acting Director, Division of Reentry and Recidivism Reduction
Lisa Whitaker, Center for Public Policy Research, UC Davis

1. Call to order and Welcome

- Chair Tilton called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call and Review Agenda

3. Approach to Reentry in California

- Chair Tilton expressed the meeting's challenge: how to best communicate with the local communities to connect with the people who provide the various reentry services; how to find a way to complement the services in the community, especially with drug rehabilitation and mental health; how to further develop the facility to transition people back into the community; how to prepare the community for reentry of the offender population; and how to measure the successes of these programs.

4. Reentry Challenges and Opportunities

- Ms. Montes, Chief Deputy Secretary of CDCR Adult Programs, presented two observations. First, CDCR faces many challenges in preparing offenders for reentry, e.g., prison overcrowding, limited program budget, absence of risk and needs assessments and behavior management plans for offenders, and a culture whose mission has been one of punishment for the past three decades. Second, a unique opportunity exists today with the growing philosophical alignment between major stakeholders that warehousing of offenders has not worked and the increasing body of evidence pointing to re-entry programs that do work.

5. Reentry Advisory Committee Purpose and Charter

- Mr. Armand Burrue, CDCR, Acting Director, Division of Reentry and Recidivism Reduction, discussed specifics of the Committee Purpose and Charter, including compliance with the Bagley-Keene Act.
- Ms. Montes discussed the Expert Panel Report on Recidivism Reduction (June 2007), which contains recommendations and a strategic implementation plan from a number of highly experienced correctional practitioners and researchers from throughout the country. Issues addressed included:
 - recommendations for reducing the overcrowding in California prisons;
 - implementing risk and needs assessments of offenders on a wider basis;

- measuring the quality and effectiveness of rehabilitation programs;
 - expansion of efforts to develop systems and procedures for implementing partnerships with community stakeholders;
 - suggestions for modifying programs and services to target the needs of returning offenders, especially relating to employment, drug rehabilitation and housing;
 - developing the community as a protective factor against recidivism; and
 - exploration of options and guidelines for community sanctions that may be used prior to re-offenders returning to prison.
- Chair Tilton commented on the importance of providing compliance, incentives and tools to help ensure that offenders stay in programs.
 - Ms. Montes highlighted Appendix B in the Expert Panel Report, which “snapshots” the principle elements of the rehabilitation programming roadmap. She requested that, if possible, committee members scan through the Report in advance of the next meeting.

6. Committee Discussion

- Mr. Lawler noted that the July 10th Reentry Advisory Committee Charter draft was the most recent.
- The group considered various elements in their discussion, including:
 - Communication with communities
 - Support value changing exercise that clearly communicates that we can’t arrest our way out of this;
 - Cultivate an awareness that 95-98% of offenders are released back into the community
 - Provide clear expectations of the community to accept responsibility to effectively take some ownership of offenders reentering society, that parolees are our community members returning, citizens of the community.
 - Marketing Plan
 - Hire a marketing firm; to concentrate efforts on a marketing and education plan that sustains itself in the community and promotes awareness in the public and that this is not just a prison issue, it is a societal issue; including recognition that this is a problem in the entire United States, not just in California, and over 600,000 people are reentering society annually

- Develop a media campaign that explains the myths and the truths of the current situation. This campaign may include producing a video about the realities of the situation that would be sent out to all appropriate parties to start the discussion.
- Public forum
 - Establish an outlet that people can respond to in person and/or in writing that provides the opportunity for the community to express their views, vent, and ask questions to help in minimizing opposition and NIMBYism.
- Publish good neighbor policies
 - Establish ways for people to learn to work with and live with the presence of Reentry Facilities;
 - Develop community understanding that the facilities are there and what those facilities are going to do to make themselves welcome over the long haul;
 - Encourage understanding that the facilities really want to be a part of the community and benefit the community.
- Evidence-based Research
 - Document the value of programs and find ways to demonstrate that the programs work;
 - Link to the consequences of not providing programs;
 - Methods for assessing the impact of the ongoing cuts in programs and promoting awareness that sustainability of the programs is an important piece of the puzzle;
 - Identify the specific “guiding principles” that show up in all evidence-based programs that have demonstrated progress.
- Reentry Facility Funding
 - Who will be organizing and deciding where the Reentry Facility money is going to go and how many beds will be needed, what will be the makeup of that group?
 - How do you get the biggest “bang for the buck” for the entire state and who will be making those decisions?
 - This committee can advise on how to institute that decision making process.
- Reentry Facilities and Reentry Programs Considerations

- How many prisons to start with? Six out of 33 is the initial goal, but what is the ultimate number? Should there be some starting principles, like going to the heaviest county population areas earlier?
- The goal is to impact prisoners so they do not go back to prison, not just release after time served;
- If monies are spent in the prison to get people ready for the outside, then people on the outside need to be ready for them, and that comes through healing;
- How do you connect offenders with their families and how do you train the family to be sympathetic towards the returning offender;
- Explain to the community that children of offenders are at risk. This needs to be emphasized to avoid a next generation of offenders;
- Family Foundation and faith-based models need to be integrated into considerations;
- Articulation of the importance of ongoing drug rehabilitation and treatment;
- Placing offenders in a manageable environment; i.e. the concept of “phasing down” to independent living;
- The importance of taking an active role in reducing barriers to a range of opportunities in support of housing, in particular, for the mentally ill parolee population;
- The need for clearer definitions of what “transition back to the general population” means;
- How to integrate a work furlough component? There are work furlough programs in place elsewhere that can be consulted;
- Gang issues need to be addressed by first recognizing the consequence of overcrowding and the difficulty in creating a safe zone in some of the prisons, and that gang issues are complex;
- How do we get our youngsters to find a different model rather than the gang mentality, how do we find an alternative for them? This is a challenge that cannot be ignored and that will not be solved overnight;
- Wraparound services that start in facilities, providing full services to the reentry population and the idea of “parallel universes” in the facilities that parallel the outside world to further aid in transition of offenders back to the outside;
- Creating facilities where the community members are really involved in the programming, in doing outreach and in mentoring different aspects of programming within the community;
- The importance of designing the facilities so they do not look like prisons when people drive by. The principle should be that they are structured

architecturally so they blend into the environment and are acceptable to communities. Also, facilities should be customized in a way that is architecturally context-sensitive for that community. Involve the local community in the design;

- The current preference is to identify the reentry facility as separate from a local jail, that they are new to CDCR, and to use CDCR personnel in the facility to establish continuity for the offender's transition so that when the inmate moves he/she is in the same CDCR jurisdiction and possibly similar program, just in a different location.

- **RAC Meeting Frequency**

- The scope of the problem is known and there is clearly a sense of urgency, but this group only comes together four times a year, which does not connote a sense of urgency;
- How can we work between meetings?
- One possibility is a website to support the committee that would also be a tool for exchanging information.
- Is the group able to meet more often?
- The law requires that the group meet quarterly but should meetings occur more often?

7. Future Agenda Items

- **AB 900 implementation update**
 - Use of project management plan to support AB 900.
 - Share status of the process and how it is moving along
 - What the current thinking is in terms of timeframes, and asking for targeted feedback.
- **Reentry Facility Guide**
 - Feedback on a draft document (now called a guide that will be sent to the group before the next meeting) that defines the secure reentry facility,
 - Who will be the target population
 - What programs will be offered to them and for what length of time.
- **Architectural Model Designs and Plans**
 - Potential models for the facilities
 - What type of programs
 - What kind of offenders and parameters for building

- Discussion of whether or not a model can be developed that all facilities can work from.
- “What Works in Rehabilitation of Adult Offenders”
 - Dr. Chapman has developed a 90 minute presentation on best practices, including the most recent literature on what works, and has offered to make that presentation.
- PACT (Police and Corrections Team) meeting list showing dates and times will be made available for RAC members can attend a local PACT.
- Tour Santa Barbara Reentry and/or San Diego Reentry facilities or Reentry Roundtables.
- Discuss a long-term strategy
 - Step back from programs, facilities and models and figure out how to better integrate the various state and local systems.
- The next meeting will be held in the latter part of October; members will be notified as dates are finalized.

9. Public Comments

Mr. Lawler read a single e-mailed comment.

10. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Minutes Approved by:

JAMES E. TILTON

Secretary and Committee Chair

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Date